

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting  
Minutes – February 10, 2012  
Public School Forum  
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC**

**Commission Member Attendees:** Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson, The Honorable Sherry Alloway, Marisol Barr, Kristin O'Conner for Sherry Bradsher, Misty Brown for Gwendolyn Burrell, Cathy Cloninger, Brandon Madden for David Elliott, Julia Freeman, The Honorable Lorrin Freeman, Beth Froehling, Janeen Gingrich, Chief John Guard, Cheryl Howell, Sheriff Dewey Jones, Jo Liles, Sandy Dixon for Tracy Little, Dr. Rebecca Macy, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Marie White and Beth Williams.

**Guest Attendees:** Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson, Christy Agner

**Department of Administration Attendees:** Beth Briggs, Charlotte Hanemann, Mary Williams-Stover

**A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded both the new incoming and existing DV Commission members to stay abreast of the required ethics training. If DVC members have any questions please contact the Ethics Commission at 919-715-2071 or visit the website at <http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/>.

**B. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson**

New member Dr. Rebecca Macy was sworn in by The Honorable Robin Hudson. Dr. Macy stated, she has already signed the Oath of Office form. A picture was taken of Judge Robin Hudson and Dr. Rebecca Macy.

**C. JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATES – Governor's Crime Committee**

Misty Brown began by giving a brief summary of the consolidation of the Department of Crime Control and Safety, the Department of Correction and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Department of Public Safety is now the largest agency within the state. The purpose of the consolidation is to increase efficiency, decrease duplication and streamline government. Grant applications were accepted November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. GCC received 63 applications from Juvenile Justice Committee requesting \$10,352,265, 128 applications for Crime Justice Improvement Committee requesting \$6,814,650 and 200 applications for Crime Victim Services Committee requesting \$23,589,680. Projected federal funds for 2012 have decreased from last year with Juvenile Justice Title II reductions of 35%; Title V reductions of 63%; CJI funding source JAG reductions by 17%; The Victim Services funding VAWA with a 10% reduction and VOCA no reduction in funds. Ms. Brown distributed a handout that reviewed the two federal funding sources that are used to fund entities that provide services to victims of domestic violence - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime (VOCA).

**D. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

Chairperson, Karen Parker Thompson introduced Beth Briggs, new Executive Director for The Council for Women. Ms. Briggs stated she was happy to be working with the Council and was looking forward to getting to know everyone.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

The Chair asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from the December 9, 2011 meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Since there were none, a motion was made by Julia Freeman and seconded by Lorrin Freeman to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2011 DV Commission as written.

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**E. EXPANDED INTRODUCTIONS – ALL**

The Chair asked each member to introduce themselves and talk briefly about their role with the Commission and their commitment to the DVC; related skills they bring to the Commission and issues they would like to see addressed this year.

- Karen Parker Thompson – Chairperson of the Commission. She has been a member since 2007, brings over 20 years of experience and a background in domestic violence and currently works for a large DV program in Charlotte - United Family Services as the Chief Advancement Officer. Issues she would like to focus on this year are building resources and more funding for domestic violence.
- Beth Briggs –Executive Director of the Council for Women. She served on Council for Women's Board for 2 years; has been involved with women's issues for over 15 years. Her skills and experience include networking, public speaking and fundraising. The issue she would like to focus on this year is advocacy to ensure the stability of the resources for the women of North Carolina.
- June Michaux – Deputy Secretary of Internal Services and Advocacy Programs for Department of Administration. June oversees the Council for Women along with 6 other departments offering support to staff pertaining to budget issues, personnel related issues and programmatic issues. Personally she is interested in domestic violence issues and served on the Durham County Women's Commission.
- Marisol Barr – Represents minorities pertaining to victim services. As a survivor of domestic violence, she offers help with language and cultural barriers for Latinas. She would like to focus on equal shares of funds across the state and focus on rural areas that lack services.
- Cheryl Howell – Professor Public Law and Government - School of Government. She is the designee of the Dean of UNC School of Government, Michael Smith. Her organization is responsible for training people in the court system and helping keep judges up to date with changes in the law. Her legal specialty is family law and is assigned to work with district court judges. Domestic violence is a huge issue within the family courts.
- Judge Sherry Alloway – District Court Judge. This is her second meeting and she is new to the Commission. Judge Alloway serves primarily in juvenile courts. Seeing more domestic violence cases overflow into that court, she is interested in the connections of how to protect children and women. Her experience offers insight into what judges see and hear in the courtrooms. She would like a better understanding of victims and how to help victims and those who do not want help – how we help someone to protect themselves. Skills she brings to the commission are common sense and experience in the court room.

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- Janeen Gingrich – Legal Aid of North Carolina. Her primary role is raising money for Legal Aid. Thirty-one percent of what is done at Legal Aid pertains to domestic violence. She has been involved with domestic violence work for over 18 years, including program management, fundraising, and coalition building. She would like our focus this year to be on advocacy and finding more money for programs.
- Dr. Rebecca Macy – Associate Professor - School of Social Work, UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her interest in the Commission results from her research on domestic violence, sexual abuse and human trafficking. Dr. Macy has over 35 publications and 10 years experience in research in North Carolina. She can offer the Commission assistance with bringing resources, help with research and evidence on policy decisions. She hopes to learn what is going on at the state level through this involvement.
- Brandon Madden –Victim and Citizen’s Service section of The Department of Justice, attending on behalf of David Elliot. His organization works with domestic violence issues and the N.C. Address Confidentiality Program offering substitute addresses for victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse.
- Lorrin Freeman – Wake County Clerk of Superior Court. Her interest in the Commission is as the Clerk for one of the largest court systems in state and almost three hundred domestic violence cases a month; Wake County has a specialized domestic violence unit and interacts with victims on a daily basis. She serves as Legislative Chair for Clerks statewide, and spends a lot of time with legislators as first vice-chair for the Clerks conference. She is here to learn as much as she can, listen and take information back to share statewide.
- Jo Liles – Director of Batter Intervention Program in Judicial District 16. The DVC has been a wonderful learning experience. Her background includes work as a mental health counselor. As a counselor she struggled understanding victims of domestic violence and it since has become a passion for her. She would like to focus on training in the court systems, issues of continuances in domestic violence cases and the awareness about difference between anger management and abuser treatment.
- Julia Freeman – Executive Director of REACH of Haywood County, a dual agency offering services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She has served on the Commission for 10 years and witnessed lots of positive changes and the impact of Commission is incredible. The pressing issues for service agencies are sustainability and funding.
- Beth Froehling – Executive Director of NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. NCCADV is a statewide non-profit organization, focused on public policy, public awareness, children’s programs and prevention. She has been a member of the Commission for two terms. Beth would like the Commission to focus on training, good laws are passed but not implemented, i.e., Abuser Treatment passed but not utilized.

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- John Guard – Pitt County Sheriff’s Office, Community Operations Division, brings 20 years of law enforcement and has been a member of the Commission since 1997. He is Chairperson of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee. John would like to see a focus on areas of victim safety and offender accountability. He is interested in addressing the lack of training with on-going training.
- Sandy Nixon – Manager of Victim Services for Prison, Probation and Parole. She is attending on behalf of Tracy Little. Sandy has worked for the Department of Correction for 9 years. Issues she hopes the DVC will address is offender accountability and victim safety.
- Dewey Jones – Sheriff, Person County, brings 25 years of law enforcement experience. He would like to see better education for victims. The issue he wants addressed is training for law enforcement and court officials.
- Cathy Cloninger – The Shelter of Gaston County, 28 years experience as social worker and shelter coordinator. She is a new member of the Commission and looks forward to building relationships with the members. Cathy would like to see more public awareness campaigns, PSAs, billboards, posters etc. about domestic violence.
- Beth Williams – Private Attorney, became interested in domestic violence issues in law school. She is involved with local shelters and courts and would like a statewide mandate for domestic violence courts. Beth is interested in a public awareness campaign, with a focus on rural areas where there are little to no resources and public education that teaches respectful dating in health classes.
- Kristen O’Conner – Department of Health and Human Services, attending on behalf of Sherry Bradsher. She is responsible for administration of domestic violence funding sources, funding over 66 domestic violence shelters. Kristin would like to focus on strengthening the relationship of the domestic violence communities and child welfare communities to promote better collaboration between the two groups.
- Mary White –Women’s Commission Division Director, Mecklenburg County. She teaches Policy Analysis part-time in Charlotte. Currently she advocates about domestic violence in the workplace policy. Her frustrations are with administrative and public policy because she sees great laws passed but not implemented. An issue to focus on is training and implementation of policy as its intended.
- Mary Williams-Stover – Assistant Director of the Council for Women. Her background is in non-profit management. She has extensive experience in fundraising, strategic planning and marketing. She would like to focus more awareness of the issue of domestic violence and public support for more resources for staff support.

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**F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Beth Briggs, Executive Director**

Beth welcomed all attendees, appreciated their introductions and learning more about each of their strengths and concerns.

- Commission members reviewed the Domestic Violence Commission's Statute. The Commission's purpose is:
  - Public Awareness
  - Training for law enforcement and providers
  - Training pertaining to child protection
  - Advice to private entities
  - Design, coordinate and oversee a statewide public awareness campaign
  - Data collection
  - Research proposals on how to meet the needs of victims and prevention
  - Approval of Abuser Treatment Programs
  - Performance standards for Abuser Treatment Programs
  - Report our findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly by April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Report on items the Council for Women is focusing on this year.
  - Ensuring funding stabilization
  - Educating the General Assembly of the importance of the programs and funding
  - Providing a list of all programs (DV/SA-DH) in each county to each member
  - Grants Administration – streamlining the application process. Webinar training will be held March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff training with Regional Directors
  - More technologically advanced improving our ability to communicate via web, social media, and with evaluation
  - Accurate data reporting, improved data collection
  - Enhanced visibility and communication
  - Update and improvement in the Council for Women's website
  - Encourage grantees and their board members to write letters to their legislators. Fully engage Commission members in their regions
  - Improved partnerships and collaborations and networks – schools, forums, etc.
- Governor's Hall of Fame to honors and recognize leadership among women in North Carolina. This year the Council for Women will coordinate and organize the event. Normally, a part of the NC Women's Conference, however the Conference will not be held this year. If you are interested in volunteering speak with Beth Briggs.
- Report on the Status of Women: CFW has received half the funding and is confident we will be able to raise the rest. The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) that conducted the last report in 1996 will examine a variety of indicators with comparisons to the national data. The statewide rollout of this report is scheduled for August 26, 2012, Women's Equality Day.
- The Women's History Month Celebration will be held March 27, 2012 at 6:30 at the NC History Museum with a Voter Registration Drive to begin at 5:30pm. The Keynote Speaker Anita Brown-Graham will discuss the need for women to seek leadership positions as well as engage future generations. The program will highlight the impact of North Carolina women in politics, business, health and the law. We invite and encourage all to attend.

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**G. Domestic Violence PSA Video – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

The commission watched a promotional video on the upcoming campaign to expand awareness around domestic violence and was asked to provide feedback. The video's purpose is for educating possible funders, hoping it will be a pilot for future public PSA. A motion by Beth Froehling for an endorsement by the Domestic Violence Commission and it was seconded by Lorrin Freeman. All agreed. The motion to endorse is based on a continuing opportunity to review and provide feedback as the project progresses.

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

➤ **Victim Services - Mary Williams-Stover**

Mary reported on Victim Services Committee on behalf of chairperson, Alisa Hunt Lowry. The committee decided to focus on the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault in the American Indian communities of NC. A report was conducted 9 years ago by the Commission of Indian Affairs, NCCADV and NC Council for Women. The committee is working to update this report. If you are interested in being a member of this sub-committee please speak with Mary.

➤ **Batterers Intervention - Jo Liles**

The committee met on January 25, 2012 and will meet again in March. The committee is working on a best practice manual that is in a draft stage at this moment. The deadline for application for Abuser Treatment is February; at the next meeting members will be reviewing those applications.

➤ **Law Enforcement & Pro Arrest – John Guard**

The committee met on February 3, 2012. The committee had a special guest, Kelly Myers from AOC, who discussed Senate Bill 311. The committee also discussed the need to get bond condition information placed into the NCAWARE system immediately. Chief John Guard is seeking endorsement from the Commission for a recommendation letter to Director of the AOC and to CCSC to move forward and ask for bond conditions to be added to NCAWARE. A motion was made by Beth Froehling, seconded by Dewey Jones, approved by all.

➤ **Workplace Violence – David Elliot**

David Elliot could not attend this meeting. The committee has not met since the last DVC meeting and there is nothing new to report at this time.

➤ **Legislative – Beth Froehling**

The committee has a new chair, Judge Sharon Barrett. The focus of the committee is the 50B rewrite. The Legislative committee has not met since the last DVC meeting. A signup sheet was passed around the room for volunteers interested in participating in this committee. Ms. Froehling distributed the 2012 NCCADV Legislative Agenda and discussed the proposed Amendment One (a constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot in May and provides that marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State) and its potential impact on domestic violence victims. Ms. Froehling asked for an endorsement from the DV Commission regarding NCCADV's 2012 legislative agenda. The commission endorsed all agenda items except Amendment One. Following a lengthy discussion the Commission decided not to take an official stance on Amendment One but tasked the Chair with creating a statement noting their concern in terms of implications for domestic violence victims. Motion by Janeen Gingrich and second by Dr. Rebecca Macy, agreed by all.

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**I. Legislative Orientation – Christy Agner, Department of Administration**

Ms. Agner explained her role as legislative liaison. She is available to answer questions and serve as an information source to Commission members. She encouraged members to reach out and communicate with their legislators, as a voice on behalf of the women in their communities. Ms. Agner gave each member **A Legislative Guide** handout and discussed it thoroughly.

**CLOSING REMARKS/ MEETING ADJOURNED**

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson is working on the annual report due in March. Karen and Beth thanked everyone for attending and for their support. Karen asked if there were any other announcements: Beth Froehling announced the Men's Institute Conference in Greensboro on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and the Bi-annual Conference and Workshop May 22-24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 1:54pm. The next meeting will be April 13, 2012 in this same location.